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PATENT

JAN 28 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Sanghvi *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/640,279

Filing Date: August 16, 2000

For: PROCESSES FOR THE PREPARATION OF OLIGONUCLEOTIDES

Confirmation No.: 3043

Group Art Unit: 1635

Examiner: J. Epps

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO: EV160093400US
DATE OF DEPOSIT: January 27, 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington DC 20231

Sir:

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JAN 31 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

REPLY PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.111

In response to the non-final Office Action mailed October 28, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the following remarks. Please amend the application as follows.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 42-78 as drawn to a non-elected invention without prejudice to subsequent revival.

Please amend claim 1, 27, and 35 as follows: